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SOUTHEAST INFORMATION OFFICE: Atlanta, Ga.

Technical information: (404) 893-4222 BLSInfoAtlanta@bls.gov [www.bls.gov/regions/southeast](http://www.bls.gov/regions/southeast)

Media contact: (404) 893-4220

### Consumer Price Index, Atlanta-October 2014

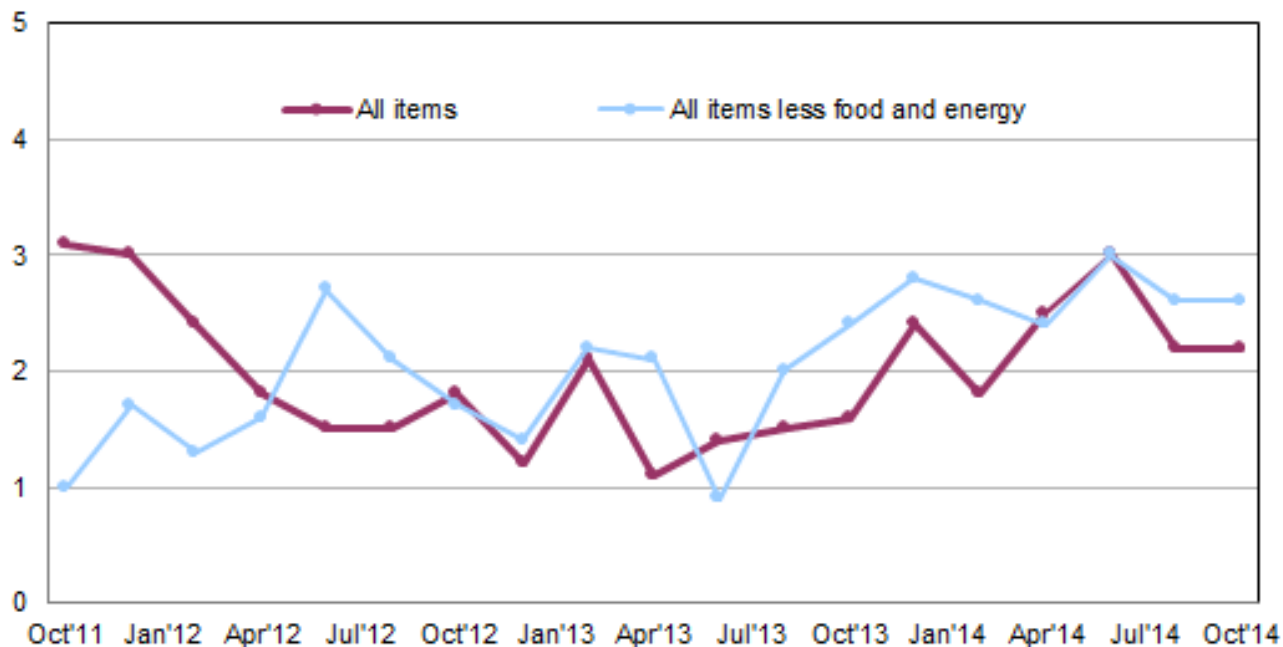
**Area prices down 1.1 percent over the two months; up 2.2 percent over the year**

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Atlanta declined 1.1 percent over the two months, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that energy prices decreased 10.9 percent over the two-month pricing period. The all items less food and energy group edged up 0.2 percent and the food index increased 0.7 percent. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U advanced 2.2 percent, reflecting price increases for shelter, food, and medical care. The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.6 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

**Chart 1. 12-month percent change in CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), Atlanta, October 2011–October 2014**

Percent change



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Food

Food prices increased 0.7 percent during the September-October pricing period. Prices increased for both food at home and food away from home, up 0.8 and 0.5 percent, respectively. In the food at home category, price increases were noted for cakes, cupcakes, and cookies.

Over the year, the food index rose 3.5 percent, reflecting price increases for both food at home (4.5 percent) and food away from home (1.8 percent).

## Energy

The energy index decreased 10.9 percent over the two-month pricing period, led by a 22.1-percent seasonal decline in electricity prices. Also contributing to the decrease was a 5.7-percent decline in motor fuel prices. Utility (piped) gas service prices inched up 0.1 percent over the two months.

Over the year, the energy index decreased 1.6 percent, primarily due to a 4.8-percent decline in motor fuel prices. Prices for electricity and utility (piped) gas service increased 2.6 and 2.9 percent, respectively.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged up 0.2 percent during the September-October pricing period, led by an increase in shelter prices (0.5 percent).

From October 2013 to October 2014, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.6 percent, reflecting higher prices for shelter (4.8 percent) and medical care (4.2 percent).

**Table A. Atlanta metropolitan area CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted**

Month	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month
February .....	1.1	-2.4	1.1	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.0	2.4	1.9	2.1	1.3	1.8
April .....	0.0	-3.5	0.7	2.4	1.7	2.5	1.1	1.8	0.1	1.1	0.8	2.5
June.....	2.2	-4.0	0.3	0.6	0.9	3.1	0.6	1.5	1.0	1.4	1.5	3.0
August .....	-0.1	-3.8	-0.1	0.6	0.6	3.8	0.6	1.5	0.7	1.5	-0.1	2.2
October.....	-1.1	-2.6	-0.8	0.9	-1.5	3.1	-1.2	1.8	-1.0	1.6	-1.1	2.2
December.....	-0.3	1.8	-0.2	1.0	-0.3	3.0	-0.9	1.2	-0.2	2.4	-	-

**The December 2014 Consumer Price Index for the Atlanta area is scheduled to be released on January 16, 2015, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).**

## Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 4,000 housing units and approximately 26,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17\\_a.htm](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm).

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **Atlanta, Ga.** metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Barrow, Bartow, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Rockdale, Spalding, and Walton Counties in Georgia.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Atlanta, GA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Aug. 2014	Sep. 2014	Oct. 2014	Oct. 2013	Aug. 2014	Sep. 2014
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All Items.....	223.657		221.276	2.2	-1.1	
All items (1967=100) .....	674.482		667.301			
Food and beverages .....	245.281		246.927	3.4	0.7	
Food .....	255.885		257.702	3.5	0.7	
Food at home .....	251.301	249.284	253.388	4.5	0.8	1.6
Food away from home.....	263.527		264.879	1.8	0.5	
Alcoholic beverages .....	150.604		150.737	2.8	0.1	
Housing .....	215.424		212.061	4.0	-1.6	
Shelter .....	224.999	225.717	226.146	4.8	0.5	0.2
Rent of primary residence <sup>(1)</sup> .....	224.852	225.550	226.640	5.0	0.8	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of residences <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	221.216	221.567	222.477	4.6	0.6	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	221.216	221.567	222.477	4.6	0.6	0.4
Fuels and utilities.....	323.064		282.139	3.9	-12.7	
Household energy .....	289.869	290.170	241.568	2.7	-16.7	-16.7
Energy Services <sup>(1)</sup> .....	288.702	288.972	240.057	2.8	-16.8	-16.9
Electricity <sup>(1)</sup> .....	269.992	270.027	210.264	2.6	-22.1	-22.1
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>(1)</sup> .....	269.409	270.359	269.676	2.9	0.1	-0.3
Household furnishings and operations.....	126.523		127.428	-2.0	0.7	
Apparel.....	138.550		137.721	-3.2	-0.6	
Transportation .....	212.826		208.809	-1.1	-1.9	
Private transportation .....	213.127		208.579	-0.7	-2.1	
Motor fuel .....	299.571	298.912	282.414	-4.8	-5.7	-5.5
Gasoline (all types).....	297.442	296.799	280.374	-4.9	-5.7	-5.5
Unleaded regular <sup>(3)</sup> .....	294.372	293.885	277.061	-5.0	-5.9	-5.7
Unleaded midgrade <sup>(3) (4)</sup> .....	358.431	357.889	338.446	-4.9	-5.6	-5.4
Unleaded premium <sup>(3)</sup> .....	298.968	297.398	283.258	-4.2	-5.3	-4.8
Medical Care .....	397.590		398.831	4.2	0.3	
Recreation <sup>(5)</sup> .....	85.927		84.274	-3.1	-1.9	
Education and communication <sup>(5)</sup> .....	134.824		133.896	1.5	-0.7	
Other goods and services .....	341.075		341.857	3.8	0.2	
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All Items.....	223.657		221.276	2.2	-1.1	
Commodities .....	185.665		184.089	0.3	-0.8	
Commodities less food & beverages.....	156.827		154.190	-1.5	-1.7	
Nondurables less food & beverages .....	200.563		195.815	-1.6	-2.4	
Durables .....	113.167		112.486	-0.7	-0.6	
Services.....	261.356		258.257	3.3	-1.2	
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	214.070		211.567	2.1	-1.2	
All items less shelter.....	228.625		224.404	1.0	-1.8	
Commodities less food .....	156.261		153.726	-1.4	-1.6	
Nondurables .....	220.806		218.748	0.7	-0.9	
Nondurables less food.....	195.635		191.261	-1.4	-2.2	
Services less rent of shelter <sup>(2)</sup> .....	320.812		310.996	1.7	-3.1	
Services less medical care services.....	245.738		242.541	3.3	-1.3	
Energy .....	268.275	268.099	238.932	-1.6	-10.9	-10.9
All items less energy .....	218.617		219.125	2.7	0.2	

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Atlanta, GA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Aug. 2014	Sep. 2014	Oct. 2014	Oct. 2013	Aug. 2014	Sep. 2014
All items less food and energy .....	213.184		213.521	2.6	0.2	

**Footnotes**

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(5) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.